

65-1868

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2 April 1965

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The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cy:

Attached is a copy of a letter delivered to me by [redacted] yesterday. It concerns the project that you and I have discussed and which you intend to go into when you are in St. Louis later this month.

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[redacted] is prepared to have his representatives ready in St. Louis if this meets your convenience.

You will note in the final paragraph, [redacted] states they can accomplish an engine demonstration program in nine months at a cost of \$12.5 million. Such a program would demonstrate the feasibility of operating a liquid hydrogen fueled rocket engine under controlled conditions at 3,000 pounds pressure.

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I found [redacted] in whom I have a great deal of confidence, very enthusiastic over the potentiality of this engine. He feels they have a real "break through" at hand which could have many applications in addition to the project you and I have discussed, and therefore he urges our immediate and thoughtful consideration of his proposal that we fund the engine demonstration.

I am inclined to believe that we should have this engine and the project studied on an urgent basis with the idea of making a judgment as to whether it would be worth our while to adopt the system. I am not unmindful of the fact however, that we are talking about a

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program which ultimately will cost several hundred millions of dollars and will require several years. If successful, however, it appears to me to be a most useful article for a variety of reasons.

Let's discuss upon my return next week.

Sincerely,

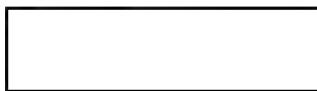
John A. McCone

Attachment

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